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**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP  
INTELLIGENCE REPORT****COUNTRY** USSR**SUBJECT** Kama Class Auxiliary Gunboats of The  
Red Banner Baltic Fleet

DIST. 1947 May 1947

PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT

50X1-HUM

**ORIGIN**

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STATE	WAR	NAVY	JUSTICE

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1. The auxiliary gunboats Guba, Kama, and Volga were apparently originally river boats but have been adapted for war purposes. They are slow (speed: 6 knots) and of limited seaworthiness since they are obliged to wait for good weather conditions before sailing. The fuel stowage facilities of these vessels are apparently limited because coal was stowed on deck as well. The gunboats lie very low in the water and appear to be carrying their full capacity of weight, for their decks amidships are only about three feet above the surface of the water.

2. The gunboats carry the following armament:

Two 130mm guns  
Four 37 or 40mm anti-aircraft guns  
Two 20mm anti-aircraft guns  
Two 13mm anti-aircraft machine guns

- a. The 130mm guns are mounted amidships on a level with the running platform leading to the bow. Ammunition is stowed behind the guns and below them, under the running platform. There is a sloping steel-plated structure which covers the base of the gun and the ammunition conveyor at the same time. The guns have an eighty degree elevation and a five degree depression.
- b. The 37 or 40mm AA guns are mounted in pairs, two in the bow and two in the stern. The after guns are mounted in round steel turrets, but the forward pair have no such protection (except in the case of the Volga, where the forward guns have a steel shield). The barrels of these guns are very long, somewhat similar to those of the 40mm Bofors AA guns.
- c. The 20mm AA guns are mounted amidships, aft of the deck house. The 13mm AA machine guns are placed one at each end of the bridge. These air-cooled MGs have muzzle brakes and are loaded from fifty-round drums which are dropped into position from above. They are equipped with open-type sights similar to those of the Vickers 7.7mm MG.

3. Each gunboat is equipped with a device for protection against mines. It consists simply of a boom which is lowered to a fixed position just above

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the water-line. This boom is about sixteen feet long; from it runs a rope, at the end of which there is a wooden kite device suggestive of a triangular stepladder. The pressure of water against the "steps" of this device forces it out and away from the side of the ship, keeping the rope taut.

4. The size of the ship's complement of one of these gunboats is unknown, but it appears comparatively large for the restricted nature of the quarters. The members of the crew wear epaulettes bearing the letters KBF.
5. When in harbor, the following guard is mounted: one officer of the watch, one senior engineer (who stays on deck), two men (possibly petty officers) on the bridge, four men standing by the anti-aircraft guns. The officers of the watch wear a red and white band on their left arms; the engineer on watch wears a blue armband. Officers are granted shore leave, but this privilege is not extended to the crews.

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